[28th November 1928

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—"May I ask whether the Bill will come before this House in the next session ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"We hope to come to a conclusion by the end of next month ; we will then have to send the Bill to the Government of India and if it comes back in time, it will be ready."

Consideration of the report of the Malabar Tenancy Committee.

*755 D Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the consideration of the report and the Bill submitted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee referred to in the answer to question No. 210 made on the 6th September 1928 has been completed and if so with what result ;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to introduce any Bill to solve the tenancy problem in Malabar in the immediate future and if so, when ;

(*c*) whether the Government have applied for or obtained the sanction of the Government of India for introducing any such Bill ;

(*d*) what action the Government have taken so far on the report and the Bill submitted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee ;

(*e*) whether the Government are aware that the report and the Bill submitted by the said Committee have been condemned by representative tenants and the tenants' association in Malabar as exceedingly one-sided and ruinous to the tenantry of Malabar ; and

(*f*) whether the Government Bill is to be on the lines similar to the one drafted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee ; if not what are the material changes it proposes to make in that Bill ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) A translation in Malayalam of the summary of recommendations of the Committee and the draft Bill prepared by it has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 2nd October 1928 and in the *Malabar District Gazette*. The Collector of Malabar has distributed in Malabar copies of the summary of recommendations and the Bill. It is also proposed to hold a conference with representatives of the tenants and janmis at an early date. Thereafter the Government will come to a decision as to the provisions of the Bill which they will be prepared to introduce in this Council on the subject after obtaining the sanction of the Government of India.

The Government are aware that the draft Bill prepared by the Committee has been adversely criticised.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know whether the Bill and the report submitted by the Tenancy Committee have been considered by the Government at all ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"We have considered them ; only we have not come to any conclusion on them."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON :—"It is stated that a conference with representatives of tenants and janmis would be held at an early date. May I know approximately what that early date will be ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I should hope in the month of December ; if not, in the month of January."

28th November 1928]

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know if the Government are prepared to expedite the various processes mentioned in the answer and to bring this Bill at the time of the next meeting ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The criticism directed against the Government was that people did not know what the Bill was. That is why we are distributing copies in Malayalam ; what is being done is to give the people time to consider the Bill. The present delay is due to that."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Apart from what has been done in the past . . . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is requested to put the supplementary question."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government will complete the various processes mentioned in the answer and bring the Bill in the January meeting ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Since January is only two months from now, it may not be possible to do so then ; it may be possible a little later."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know what the approximate time will be ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Predictions in this matter have been so falsified that I may be excused if I do not make another."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to the conference with the representatives of tenants and janmis, may I know whether they are going to be elected or appointed ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That is one of the difficulties in the matter, as to how they should be elected or nominated. The purpose is to see whether some of the objections against the present proposals cannot be met by modifications of the Bill."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Is it a joint conference of tenants and janmis ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Joint."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Joint free conference ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Free and open."

Progress of the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill.

* 755-E Q.—Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the stage in which the consideration of the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill is ;

(b) whether the report of the Estates Land Act Committee has been sent to the Board of Revenue for their opinion ; and if so, when ;

(c) whether the Board of Revenue have sent their opinion ;

(d) whether it is a fact that a Member of the Board of Revenue always sat on the Committee ;